

## **Script for Team Leaders** (Rev #3, 10/05/01)

### **Introduction and Permission:**

(Team Leader dons booties and approaches front door)

Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. Are you (first names only)?

We have your home scheduled for environmental sampling today. Is this still a convenient time for you? *(If no, someone will call to reschedule)*

### **Safety and Sample Briefing to Resident:**

First let me thank you for participating in this study. Let me start by explaining why I'm wearing these funny booties. Our biggest concern is maintaining the integrity of the samples we get from your home. We don't want to track any dirt from our vehicle or other sample sites into your house. So we will be wearing these booties, and the two samplers will also be wearing white suits and gloves. Additionally, if one of the samplers has dust or pet allergies they may elect to wear a dust mask.

We are also very sensitive to the medical concerns of any residents, and although no one on the sample team thinks they are sick, we are prepared to wear medical masks while in your house if you so desire. Would you like us to wear masks?

Give me a moment to let the sample team know they can get ready and then I'll give you an overview of what we'll be doing and ask you some general questions.

*(TL gives wave to Sample Team to get ready)*

We are going to take five types of samples today: 1) Indoor Air; 2) Indoor Dust vacuumed from the floor; 3) Dust wiped from the TV; 4) Soil from outside and; 5) we will leave a test kit for Radon gas that will be picked up in a 2-4 days. It will probably take a couple of hours to complete all the sampling and I'll be happy to explain the individual sampling procedures as we go.

I'd like to take a brief tour of the areas we are going to sample, but first I need to ask you a few safety related questions.

- Do you have any pets? *(If yes, what kind, can they be secured in another room or locked in a kennel? Sometimes even friendly dogs react badly when they see the sampling gear.)*
- Is there anyone else in the house? *(If yes, I need to explain some safety items to them.)*

It's very important for the sampling team to concentrate on what they're doing, so please refrain from asking them questions while they are working. I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have. You are welcome to observe all the sampling, but as a safety precaution we would like to keep everyone clear of the work area so that the team members don't bump into anyone. We certainly want to be careful with small children, so we ask if they can be kept a safe distance from the sample teams and equipment.

Some of the sampling equipment is a little awkward to maneuver, so we want to be very careful not to disturb any special items within your home. Are there any fragile pieces of furniture or areas around which we should use extraordinary caution?

The sampling program is designed to target the areas where children spend the most time, so could you show me the room where your kids usually play, or watch TV?

This is where we'll take the air sample and start the vacuuming.

We also will need to vacuum in the children's bedroom(s), can you please show those to me now.

That covers the inside; now I'd like to see the area where the kids usually play outside. We'll be taking a few jars of soil from this area.

Are there any safety concerns you can think of, such as bee or wasp nests, wires, stakes or pipes in the ground, spiders, snakes or rodents?

Is there a side access that we can use, to avoid walking through the house?

Thank you for the quick tour. We'll have plenty of time to discuss the sampling further, but right now I need to go out and give a quick briefing to the sampling team and then we will meet you back here (*at the front door*) to start bringing in the sampling equipment. We'll stage everything just inside the door so that we will not have to leave once we're inside. I'll be back in a few minutes with some more questions as we start the sampling, and I'll be available to answer any questions that you might have. In the mean time, here is a list of contacts for you if you have any questions or concerns later or if you need information that I'm unable to provide today. (*give handout*)

*(TL returns to vehicle, briefs team on safety, site layout, and sampling locations, returns to house and introduces team)*

### **Sampling:**

This square frame is used to mark the area we will vacuum. It's very important that we know exactly how many square feet we sample, so we'll use this square in multiple locations to keep track.

Sometimes we can't get as much dust as we would like, so as a back up may we take the bag or contents from your vacuum cleaner?

- When was your vacuum last emptied?
- Has it ever been used outside of this house, such as in a vehicle or loaned to a neighbor? (*If yes, how long ago and has it been emptied?*)

Part of this study requires that a water sample be taken by a water quality specialist from the USGS. Is it OK if they contact you to make an appointment?

*(TL explains Summa, Nilfisk vacuum, and dust wipe procedures, if resident desires)*

*(TL asks specific interview questions as team completes sampling, maintaining visual observation with team at all times)*

While the team packs up let me ask you a few questions regarding the Radon kit.

- Do you know what Radon gas is? *(Explain if necessary)*
- Have the windows been closed and swamp coolers or window fans been kept off for the past 12 hours?
- The Radon test kit must be placed at 3 to 4 feet above the floor in the lowest living area of the house. It has to be an area where it won't be disturbed for 4 days. *(Discuss best location)*

*(TL goes with resident to locate Radon site, and fills out location card)*

- The house must be kept closed, except for normal entry and exit, for the duration of the test.
- When is a good time between two and four days from now that we may return to pick up the kit? Someone will call to confirm before coming back.
- *(TL calculates 2-4 days and notes the resident's desired time.)*

OK, we're done inside the house. It will take a few minutes to get the soil sampling equipment together and we'll get started in the back yard.

*(TL explains soil sampling procedure, completes interview checklist if necessary)*

### **Closing Conversation:**

We're all finished. These samples will be sent to a number of labs, and when NDEP receives all of the results, we will send you a copy of the report. If you have any questions about the findings we can assist you. Before I leave do you have any final questions for me. Again let us thank you for participating in this study

*(Let team members thank resident). Have a good day!*